

wrote and an article about this honor be printed in the RECORD.

The whole Gartner family represent the best of Vermont and Marcelle and I value their friendship.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PATRICK LEAHY,
U.S. SENATOR,
October 1, 1998.

RUTLAND REGION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
North Main Street,
Rutland, VT

DEAR FRIENDS: My mother was wrong. She always told me that if I wanted something done right, I should do it myself.

What I learned a little later in life was that if I REALLY wanted something done right, I needed to ask Allen Gartner to do it.

Allen personifies Rutland—his love of his family, his sense of the broader community, his deep spirituality, and his sense of the broader community of which we are all a part. Most important for his friends in Rutland and all over Vermont is an indomitable sense that if you work hard enough, and if your cause is just, anything is possible.

It is fitting that Allen is honored by a group as respected as the Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce. But Allen, by the life he leads, the work he does and the joy he brings to others, honors all of us every single day.

Sincerely,

PAT.

[From the Rutland Daily Herald, October 5, 1998]

ALLEN GARTNER, BUSINESS LEADER WITH A SENSE OF CHARITY

(By Laurie Lynn Strasser)

"Tzedaka" is the most important word in the Hebrew language, Mintzer Brothers co-owner Allen S. Gartner said last Thursday after receiving the 1998 Business Person of the Year award from the Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce.

It means "charity."

"I was raised that this is the greatest country in the world, by a long shot," said Gartner. "It was our obligation to give back to the community. My parents not only spoke those words, but they lived by those words."

In conferring the honor, Rutland Chamber of Commerce Executive Vice President Tom Donahue rattled off a litany of boards that Gartner has served on. Donahue added that if he listed all the extracurriculars and charities Gartner had helped, "this luncheon might turn into a dinner meeting."

In an interview afterward, Gartner said he felt honored by the award, but that recognition was not the point.

"Whatever I'm doing, I need to do because that's what people should do," he said. "The bottom line of business is not what's important. That's not what we're on this planet for. We're only here a speck anyway. Really, it's just a blip. What's important is the welfare of the community." His father, the late Walter Gartner, used to say that the best form of giving is anonymous. His father made it out of Nazi Germany in the nick of time, but lost the rest of his family to the Holocaust. After World War II, he married and bought Mintzer Bros., a fuel oil and grain business that had been founded in 1926.

Walter Gartner's wife, Margot, gave birth to Edward in 1945 and Allen in 1949.

The younger Gartner still recalls the days when customers bought berry baskets, syrup cans and laying mash. By the early 1960's, the emphasis had switched to building supplies.

Gartner worked at the Strongs Avenue store in the summers between his graduation from Rutland High School in 1967 and Union College in 1971.

He spent his junior year abroad in France. Just last year, he returned to Paris for an emotional reunion with his host family. The people he last saw as teenagers are now in their 40s, he noted.

Gartner earned a bachelor's degree in political science and modern languages.

"I have a passion for politics," he said. "To me, politics is conflict and compromise."

He went on to pursue an advanced degree at New York University Law School, although he never intended to become a practicing attorney.

"I spent the first 20 years of my life trying to be a peace-maker," he said. "The first day of law school, the professor's asking, 'What would your argument be? It was always antithetical to what I believed, but it was good education. I refer to my law school education almost every day of the week.'"

It wound up taking him seven years to finish at NYU because his father had suffered a stroke. Living with relatives on Manhattan's Upper West Side, he would attend graduate school then work for one semester each year.

"I'd go down to the pay phone in the basement of the law school library and make phone calls for the business," he recalled. "I'd do this every day, buying and selling lumber, calling customers."

Gradually, he and his brother, Edward, took the reins from their father. Walter Gartner died in 1983.

The brothers opened another Mintzer branch in Ludlow in the early 1980s. Three years ago they expanded again into the Route 7 south space vacated by Grossman's after it went out of business.

In the coming year, Mintzer Bros. may face its toughest challenge in 70 years. Home Depot, the largest hardware chain in the world, has indicated an interest in opening a large store in Rutland.

"Big orange is a dose of reality," he said referring to Home Depot's theme color. "You've got to fight the good fight, fight it as best as you can. Business today is war. I'm not sure I'm cut out for war."

Gartner was instrumental in recruiting area merchants to form Rutland Region First, a grassroots organization whose goal is to stop Home Depot from locating in the area.

No matter what happens with the business, it is important to keep perspective, said Gartner. He has faced worse hardships, including the loss of his firstborn daughter when she was six days old and chronic back pain for the past 17 years. Financial challenges are not as important as keeping his family intact, Gartner said.

Just like when he was growing up, Gartner still plays the role of peacemaker, but these days he has taken the quest to an international level.

Last week, he met Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who was in Washington, DC, to parley with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"It pains me to see Palestinians mistreated," he said. "I'm a Zionist, but I think we've got to live together."

Committed to the Middle East peace process for the past decade, he shaved off his beard when he learned of the historic 1979 accord between Israel and Egypt. When Yasser Arafat signed a treaty with the late Isaac Rabin in 1993, Gartner was there on the south lawn of the White House.

"It was a most emotional moment for me," he recalled, describing weeping Jewish and Arab Americans throwing their arms around each other.

RECOGNITION OF MARY LOUISE SINCLAIR

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to honor a special member of my staff who is retiring from government service at the end of the 105th Congress.

Mary Louise Sinclair has served with loyalty and with distinction in the United States Senate family for nearly 36 years. During the course of her service in the Senate, Mary Louise has worked for some notable members of this body. She has worked for Senator Everett Dirksen as a secretary from 1962 to 1970. She then joined the staff of Senator Robert Taft as the office manager and secretary, where she stayed for his full term until 1977. My fellow Pennsylvanian, the late Senator John Heinz, was also privileged to have Mary Louise on his staff as a special assistant for a remarkable 13 years from 1978 to 1992, and since 1993, Mary Louise has served with distinction as my Executive Secretary.

Through her dedication and diligence, Mary Louise has enabled me to maximize my efficiency to ensure that I am in the best position to represent Pennsylvania. For that, my staff, my constituents, my family and I are very grateful.

I applaud her service and offer her, on behalf of my Senate colleagues, our goodwill and best wishes upon her retirement.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I would also like today to recognize the efforts of my staff in my personal office and State offices, who help me each day in responding to the needs of 12 million Pennsylvanians and countless other Americans who write, call or visit. I have long said that I believe I have the best staff in the Senate, and I want to convey my appreciation publicly for the work they do on behalf of the taxpayers.

Thus, as the work of the 105th Congress comes to a close, I extend my thanks to David Urban, Gretchen Birkle, Molly Birmingham, Kristin Bodenstedt, Jane Brattain, David Brog, Mark Carmel, Allison Cooper, Juliette Cox, Alli DeKosky, Aura Dunn, Jeff Gabriel, Cathy Gass, David Grindel, Peter Grollman, Patricia Haag, Andrea Haer, Alegra Hassan, Kevin Mathis, Pam Muha, Anthony Pitagno, Dan Renberg, Charlie Robbins, Jill Schugardt, Mary Louise Sinclair, Seema Singh, Erin Streeter, Jim Twaddell, John Ulliot, Ron Williams, and Chris Wilson of my Washington office.

Similarly, I appreciate the efforts of my Pennsylvania-based staff, which includes Ken Braithwaite, Mary Clark, Anthony Cunningham, Patty Doohan, Kenny Evans, Carmen Santiago, Banita Sharma, Gil Stein, Bella Straznik, Corene Ashley, Stan Caldwell, Katherine Risko, Doug Saltzman, Salena

Zito, Lynda Murphy, Tom Bowman, Joe Connolly, Steve Dunkle, Joan Mitchell, Mary Jo Bierman, Andy Wallace, and Vincent Galko.

THE CONSERVATION TRUST OF PUERTO RICO

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, before we adjourn, Senator MOYNIHAN and I would like to speak to an issue that has yet been unable to be resolved—the funding for the Conservation Trust Fund of Puerto Rico. The Conservation Trust was created in 1968 for the protection of the natural resources and environmental beauty of Puerto Rico.

The Trust lost much of its funding as a consequence of the decisions to phase-out section 936 and eliminate the Qualified Possession Source Investment Income (also known as “QPSII”) provision in the tax code. I hope that Congress and the Administration will continue to work together to find an equitable solution that will permit the Trust to continue its protection of the environment in Puerto Rico.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. I agree with the distinguished Chairman of the Finance Committee. I would also point out that both the funding for the Conservation Trust and the opportunity to provide much needed monies to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands could have been accomplished by including the Administration's rum “cover over” proposal as part of the tax extenders package in the omnibus appropriations measure.

The needs of Puerto Rico, and the importance of this provision, were magnified by the devastation recently caused by Hurricane Georges. Despite significant bipartisan support in the Senate and the House, and a strong push from the Administration, for some reason the House refused to include this provision in the bill. I thank the Chairman for the opportunity to work with him next year to address this issue.

NATIONAL SECURITY PLANNING

Mr. WARNER. During the past two weeks, the Senate Armed Services Committee has conducted hearings on the readiness of the armed forces. Through testimony from the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the service secretaries, it has been revealed that the military is trained and being asked to perform beyond capacity. The readiness of the armed forces is clearly and unmistakably suffering. For the past several years, this has been the concern of many of the committee and in the Senate, myself included, and we have made every argument during this precipitous decade-plus decrease in defense budgeting to reduce the cuts, arguing that we've cut well beyond the fat and the flesh, and have long been cutting into the bone.

This situation is now receiving the priority so long overdue. Approximately \$7 billion of the emergency

spending supplemental currently being debated is for immediate defense readiness funding shortfalls. This is, however, only a stop gap measure, and must be the first step in a long journey to ensure the military is properly exercised and outfitted to defend U.S. national security interests.

If we are to responsibly correct this readiness shortcoming, then we must look to the root cause or causes. I believe, as do several of my colleagues on the armed services committee, and others in the Senate, that the primary and foremost reason for the readiness shortfall is an incongruity between the foreign policy goals of this administration, the strategy, and the resources to achieve those goals.

While defense spending is at an historical low, the armed forces are being exercised and deployed in ever increasing frequency and with less and less direction. Earlier this year, for example, Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher gave the remarkable statistic that since the demise of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, the Navy-Marine Corps team alone has been involved in 93 naval contingencies in 96 months. That is an average of almost once a month that the Navy-Marine Corps team has been involved in a contingency of importance to our national security.

As the Congress prepares to adjourn, we do so in a world laden with instability, one which will demand U.S. leadership and engagement. In Kosovo, refugees—numbering nearly a quarter of a million—are fleeing from Kilosevic's forces. They are cowering in the mountains where the harsh winter of the Balkan mountains will kill thousands more, or they are flooding neighboring countries for relief—but finding those countries ill-equipped to support them. I am confident NATO, under U.S. leadership, will soon take action to end the strife action which will require the deployment of a ground forces in Kosovo—with some U.S. participants in view of having an American commander of NATO.

Israel remains the flashpoint in the Middle East, but others come and go. Turkish troops are massing on the Syrian border, preparing to defend a pre-World War II territory claim and retaliate to any Syrian opposition in force. The Taliban, having secured a religious revolution in Afghanistan, have engaged Iranian forces along their common border in an escalating war between two sects of Islam.

While the Gulf War has been over for seven years, Iraq, in defiance of the world community, continues to remain armed. Two months have passed since Saddam Hussein prohibited officials from the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq from conducting inspections. Further, the testing of Vx gas by Iraq has been corroborated by independent tests in France. Questions, credible ones, still arise over their nuclear posture.

Worldwide, a proliferation of nuclear technology and the proliferation of the

means to deliver weapons of mass destruction is unnevering. India and Pakistan now have the bomb, and unfortunately, like so many other neighbors in the world community, they also have the motive to use it against each other. The launch of the Taepo Dong 1 by North Korea was a clear and unmistakable “shot heard round the world.” Such an action by a militarized, secretive, isolated, country in the throws of an overwhelming economic depression, by a people increasingly in despair, is a harbinger of catastrophe.

This is but a brief summary—a few examples to illustrate where I see continuing and emerging challenges to United States national security interests. Clearly, the end of the Cold War was not peace, but a transformation of the world's politico-military order with unsettled ancient conflicts based on ethnic, religious or tribal differences and interests against emerging. These threats require our continued vigilance and must be our highest concerns.

It is in this context that former Secretary of Defense, Dr. James Schlesinger, examines the current administrations ability to meet these threats given current U.S. force structure and the resources accorded to achieving foreign and defense goals. In his article, “Raise the Anchor or Lower the Ship, Defense Budgeting and Planning,” published in the Fall of 1998 edition of *The National Interest*, Dr. Schlesinger articulates the dilemma with which we find ourselves in recouping the peace dividend in an unstable world that demands U.S. presence and leadership.

Dr. Schlesinger is far too modest to observe that his insights were part of the foundation that led to the increase in military funding that occurs in legislation to be adopted by Congress this week; I encourage each of my colleagues to take a moment to review the article. His forthright, candid discussion of the mismatch between the ends of U.S. foreign and defense policy and the means with which to realize those ends will be a prominent reference for the Senate Armed Services Committee and this body as we deliberate this emergency defense appropriations supplemental and future defense funding issues in the coming congress.

DALE BUMPERS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, as we approach the end of another Congress, we bid farewell to those Senators who will not be returning in January. Today I wish to say farewell to a good friend and one of the most honorable and respected members of this body—DALE BUMPERS.

DALE BUMPERS is the epitome of what a Senator should be. He entered public service because he believed that it was a noble profession, and throughout his political career he has performed his duties with the highest levels of integrity and decency. He has always been